

*Choleva suturalis*, sp. n.

*Narrow*, subopaque; pubescence slender, dense, ash-coloured; nigro-fuscous, the tibiæ, palpi, and the basal two or three joints obscure red.

*Thorax* nearly twice as broad as it is long, base and apex nearly straight, slightly curvate, and narrowed towards the front. *Scutellum* minute. *Elytra* twice as long as broad, gradually narrowed posteriorly, slightly impressed near the middle; sutural striæ distinct, the sutural region from near the apex to beyond the middle appears slightly convex; apices individually rounded. *Legs* stout, intermediate *tibiæ* curved, the spines of the posterior shorter than the basal joint of the tarsi; front *tarsi* with the three first joints dilated, fourth small. *Antennæ* stout, longer than the head and thorax, the basal three joints elongate; fourth and fifth elongate, but shorter than the preceding one; sixth quadrate; seventh at least a third longer than the sixth; eighth evidently smaller than fifth; ninth and tenth nearly similar to the seventh.

*Sculpture* close, consisting principally of transverse linear marks, that of the elytra more distinct than in *C. relata*.

This is without doubt most nearly allied to No. 2350 (*C. relata*), but the thorax is more transverse and its anterior angles are less contracted and depressed. The scutellum is much smaller, the sutural region and apices of elytra are different, and the body is even narrower.

♂. Length  $1\frac{1}{8}$ , breadth quite  $\frac{3}{8}$  line.

West Plains, Invercargill. One of each sex sent by Mr. A. Philpott, together with a female of No. 2350, in which the sixth joint of the antennæ is transverse.

[To be continued.]

X.—On the *Brush-tailed Porcupine of Central Africa*.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

IN 1887 the British Museum received, in the first and most valuable collection presented by Emin Pasha, three skins of a Brush-tailed Porcupine, which, in the absence of proper West-African specimens for comparison, I referred\* to *Atherura africana*, Gray. Since then the skulls have been extracted from the type and other specimens from the West Coast, and the Museum has also received additional material from that region, among which the most noteworthy is a very

\* P. Z. S. 1888, p. 15.

fine skull from Sierra Leone, collected long ago by Mr. T. Whitfield, but only recently rendered available for comparison.

The additional material shows, as is not surprising, that Emin's specimens, while excessively like *A. africana* in their external appearance, differ so much in cranial characters as to necessitate their specific distinction.

The species may be called

*Atherura centralis*, sp. n.

Size, colour, and other external characters very much as in *A. africana*, except that the spines are rather more fimbriated, and those of the sides are more frequently tipped with white.

Skull longer and slenderer, with a flatter, less inflated, and narrower frontal region and better defined postorbital processes. Anteorbital foramina higher than broad, the converse being the case in *A. africana*; posterior edge of the base forming their lower boundary level with or in front of the front edge of the anterior cheek-tooth, whether *mp*.<sup>4</sup> or *p*.<sup>4</sup>; posterior edge of palate level with the middle of the last molar in place, whether *m*.<sup>2</sup> or *m*.<sup>3</sup>, according to age.

Teeth remarkably small and delicate, the length of the upper molar series scarcely more than half the diastema, while in the allied species this measurement is about two thirds of the diastema. The small size of the teeth is, of course, the reason for the relatively different position of *p*.<sup>4</sup> and the anterior zygoma-root.

Dimensions of the type, marked by Emin as a male (in skin):—

Head and body (c.) 500 millim.; (tail imperfect); hind foot 60.

Skull: basal length 86, basilar length from henselion 78; greatest breadth 46; nasals, length 28; interorbital breadth 26·8; intertemporal breadth 24·5; anteorbital foramen, height 10, width 8, distance between most distant points of the two foramina 35; palate length from henselion 41·7; diastema 27·7; upper molar series (crowns) 15·3. Length of lower jaw, bone only, 59; condyle to angle 21·6; length of lower molar series 16·8.

*Hab.* Monbuttu, Central Africa. Coll. Dr. Emin Pasha.

*Type*: B.M. 87.12.1.98.

The main cause for distinguishing the Central- from the West-African *Atherura* lies in the extremely small size of the molar teeth, a characteristic equally observable at all ages. This latter is a point which has to be especially noticed in studying the teeth of porcupines, owing to the peculiar manner in which wear affects the size of the teeth.